

Robert S. Allen - Paul Scott Report

U.S. Officials Watch Maneuvers Of Cuban Air Force's Jet Planes

By ROBERT S. ALLEN and PAUL SCOTT

While the public gaze is focused on the trials in West Berlin and at the United Nations, U. S. defense officials are closely watching the aggressive maneuvers of Dictator Castro's small jet air force.

The growing Cuban air force, which now consists of a dozen Soviet-built Mig-17s, is sending single planes flying high-altitude missions to ward the U. S.

The Migs, piloted by Cuban air force personnel trained in Czechoslovakia, always turn back to Cuba after reaching a distance approximately 30 miles from the Florida coast.



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The NAVY AND Air Force are making no effort to intercept these Cuban jets, since the planes are not violating U. S. air space. However, when spotted by U. S. patrol planes, the Migs are tracked. Should they stray within the three-mile limit of the U. S., they will be forced down.

THE MYSTERIOUS FLIGHTS are being conducted at altitudes of more than 35,000 feet.

Castro's apparent goal in these mysterious flights is to build up experience among his pilots in flying the "water corridor" between the U. S. and Cuba.

With a potential air force of 25 Mig-17s (an estimated 13 of the jets are still in crates) and the pilots to fly them, Castro will soon possess Latin America's showiest and most up-to-date air force.

Already, U. S. military intelligence is warn-

ing that Castro's air force will become bolder as more planes become operational.

They expect the Cuban jets to flex their muscles much closer to the Florida coast to show Latin nations that Castro can thumb his nose at the U. S. from his "privileged sanctuary" without getting into serious trouble.

ALLEN DULLES, who is retiring next month as head of the Central Intelligence Agency, is doing a strange back-slip on Cuba.

Dulles, whose agents planned and directed the ill-fated Cuban invasion last April, is now joining administration officials who oppose a tougher policy on Cuba.

In a national intelligence estimate sent to the White House, Dulles takes the position that the U. S. should not cut off all trade with Castro.

The CIA Director contends that an iron-tight embargo, as being urged by Democratic congressional leaders, would hurt the U. S. more with public opinion in Latin America than the good that would come out of it. He claims that Castro will have a propaganda holiday, if an embargo is imposed, by charging that the U. S. is refusing to sell food and medicine to the Cuban people.

THIS CIA VIEW is directly opposite of that held by the Defense Department.

In a letter to President Kennedy, Cyrus R. Vance, general counsel of the Defense Department, states flatly that the U. S. would be the big gainer, reporting:

"The economic effects of an embargo on Cuba might well be serious food shortages there. These shortages would increase unrest and opposition to the Castro regime. . . . U. S. interests would not be vitally affected by the embargo. . . . Naval base of the U. S., situated in Cuba would not be affected."